

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 39/39	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/57659 (43) International Publication Date: 23 December 1998 (23.12.98)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP98/03671</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1998 (09.06.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9712347.5 14 June 1997 (14.06.97) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS S.A. (BE/BE); Rue de l'Institut 89, B-1330 Rixensart (BE).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(73) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BOON, Thierry (BE/BE); Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Avenue Hippocrate 74 UCL 7459, B-1200 Brussels (BE). SILLA, Silvia (IT/BE); Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Avenue Hippocrate 74 UCL 7459, B-1200 Brussels (BE). UYTENHOVE, Catherine (BE/BE); Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Avenue Hippocrate 74 UCL 7459, B-1200 Brussels (BE).</p> <p>(74) Agent: DALTON, Marcus, Jonathan, William; SmithKline Beecham, Corporate Intellectual Property, Two New Horizons Court, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EP (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: ADJUVANT COMPOSITIONS FOR VACCINES</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The present invention provides improved adjuvant compositions comprising <u>QS21/3DMPL</u> and <u>Interleukin 12</u>. These find utility in a range of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, including cancer vaccines.</p> <p>68 0</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MX	Mexico	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	NE	Niger	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NL	Netherlands	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NO	Norway	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NZ	New Zealand	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	PL	Poland	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	RO	Romania		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RU	Russian Federation		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	SD	Sudan		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SE	Sweden		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SG	Singapore		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia				
RE	Reunion						

ADJUVANT COMPOSITIONS FOR VACCINES

The present invention relates to improved adjuvant compositions, for the stimulation of an immune response suitable for immunotherapy applications. In particular the present invention relates to compositions comprising mixture of a saponin adjuvant with monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof and interleukin 12. In particular, the invention relates to compositions comprising 3 de-o-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, QS21, and IL12. Such compositions are particularly useful in the immunotherapy of tumours.

Cancer is a disease developing from a single cell due to genetic changes. Clinical detection of these tumours occurs mostly in a relatively late stage of disease, when the primary tumour can be removed by surgery, and the existence of micro metastases settled in different organs has often already occurred. Chemotherapy does often not completely eliminate these cells, which then remain as a source for recurrent disease.

Immune cells are able to control all different tissues (with the exception of the brain) and, due to their memory function, can also eliminate hidden cells re-entering the circulation (metastasis). Therefore, an activated immune response to tumour cells is expected to be of clinical benefit. Despite their undifferentiated growth, tumour cells are in many aspects indistinguishable from normal cells, and over-expression of certain proteins or expression of mutated proteins is in most cases not sufficient to activate the immune response. This situation results in failure of immune surveillance. Thus, strategies for therapy of disseminated tumours need to specifically activate the immune response to tumour cells and to trigger migratory activity of cytotoxic T cells for example leading to elimination of most and possibly every single tumour cell. Genetic mutation in tumour cells is intense, and strong immune responses are therefore required to prevent further genetic changes of the tumour cells (escape variants) under the pressure of the immune system.

It is now well established that cellular antigens which are not cell surface proteins *per se* can be the targets of immune rejection through their recognition by immune regulatory and cytotoxic T cells. New potential target antigens for

immune-mediated tumour rejection are being identified, based on their recognition by immune T cells, rather than by antibodies. Such antigens may or may not induce antibody formation. It is now recognized that the expression of tumour antigens by a cell is in itself not sufficient for *induction* of an immune response to these antigens. Initiation of a tumour rejection response requires a series of immune amplification phenomena dependent on the intervention of antigen presenting cells, which are responsible for delivery of a series of activation signals which ultimately leads to the rejection of the tumour.

Tumour rejection antigens which are presented on tumour cells and which are recognised by cytotoxic T cells can lead to lysis of the cell. To achieve this, in a clinical setting a vaccine composition comprising a tumour rejection antigen needs to be presented in a suitable adjuvant system to enable a suitable immune response to be mounted. However, activation of the immune systems requires activation signals which are initiated by antigen presenting cells and are not activated by the tumour cells themselves.

Vaccination with isolated tumour rejection antigens has been envisaged either by recombinant proteins, by the use of live recombinant vectors or by DNA vectors. Preferably subunit antigens will be used. However, to ensure these are effective, powerful adjuvant systems are required.

Accordingly, the present invention provides an adjuvant composition comprising a combination of a saponin adjuvant in combination with monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof together with the cytokine Interleukin 12.

Immunologically active saponin fractions having adjuvant activity derived from the bark of the South American tree *Quillaja Saponaria Molina* are known in the art. For example QS21, also known as QA21, is an Hplc purified fraction from the *Quillaja Saponaria Molina* tree and its method of its production is disclosed (as QA21) in US patent No. 5,057,540. *Quillaja saponin* has also been disclosed as an adjuvant by Scott et al, Int. Archs. Allergy Appl. Immun., 1985, 77, 409.

Monophoryl lipid A and derivatives thereof are known in the art. A preferred derivative is 3 de-o-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, and is known from British Patent No. 2220211.

Interleukin 12 (IL-12) is known. For a review see Trinchieri G. Interleukin-
5 12 - A proinflammatory cytokine with immunoregulatory functions that bridge innate resistance and antigen-specific adaptive immunity. Immunology 13: 251.276, 1995. It is a heterodimeric cytokine produced mostly by phagocytic cells in response to bacteria, bacterial products, and intracellular parasites, and to some degree by B lymphocytes. In particular, IL-12 is produced by antigen presenting
10 cells and instrumental in induction of TH-1 cell responses. IL-12 induces IFN-gamma from NK and T cells, acts as a growth factor for activated NK and T cells, enhances the cytotoxic activity of NK cells, and induces cytotoxic T lymphocyte generation.

IL-12 and IL-12-induced IFN-gamma favor Th1 cell differentiation by
15 priming CD4 (+) T cells for high IFN-gamma production. However, we surprisingly found that other cytokines, such as IFN- γ , IL-2, IL-6, IL-7, GM-CSF or MCP were unable to enhance the effect of the QS21/MPL adjuvant.

Preferably the compositions of the invention contain the immunologically active saponin fraction in substantially pure form. Preferably the compositions of
20 the invention contain QS21 in substantially pure form, that is to say, the QS21 is at least 90% pure, preferably at least 95% pure and most preferably at least 98% pure. Other immunologically active saponin fractions useful in compositions of the invention include QA17/QS17.

In a preferred embodiment the composition also comprises a sterol such as
25 cholesterol wherein the sterol is present in an excess ratio to that of the saponin. These show decreased reactogenicity when compared to compositions in which the cholesterol is absent, while the adjuvant effect is maintained. In addition it is known that QS21 degrades under basic conditions where the pH is about 7 or greater. Thus a further advantage is that the stability of QS21 to basemediated
30 hydrolysis is enhanced in formulations containing cholesterol.

Although the adjuvant compositions can be utilised for the treatment or prophylaxis of a range of disease, they find particular utility in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

In particular, the adjuvant formulation finds utility particularly with tumour rejection antigens such as those for prostate, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, renal or melanoma cancers. Exemplary antigens include MAGE 1 and MAGE 3 or other MAGE antigens for the treatment of melanoma, BAGE or GAGE LAGE (NY-eso-1) PRAME or Her-2/neu; Robbins and Kawakami (1996), Current Opinions in Immunology 8, pps 628-636; Van den Eynde *et al.*, International Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Research (submitted 1997); Correale *et al.* (1997), Journal of the National Cancer Institute 89, p293. Indeed these antigens are expressed in a wide range of tumour types such as melanoma, lung carcinoma, sarcoma and bladder carcinoma. Other classes of antigens useful in the context of the present invention include tissue specific antigens such as Prostate Specific antigen (PSA); Prostate Specific Membrane antigen (PMSA), Melan A/Mart 1, gp100, tyrosinase TRP1 or TRP2.

Accordingly in one aspect of the present invention there is provided a vaccine comprising an adjuvant composition according to the invention and a tumour rejection antigen, or tissue specific antigen..

Other antigens or antigenic compositions include for example, polysaccharide antigens, protein antigens or DNA encoding antigens or antigenic compositions derived from HIV-1, (such as gp120 or gp160), any of Feline Immunodeficiency virus, human or animal herpes viruses, such as gD or derivatives thereof or Immediate Early protein such as ICP27 from HSV1 or HSV2, cytomegalovirus (especially human) (such as gB or derivatives thereof), Varicella Zoster Virus (such as gpI, II or III), or from a hepatitis virus such as hepatitis B virus for example Hepatitis B Surface antigen or a derivative thereof, hepatitis A virus, hepatitis C virus and hepatitis E virus, or from other viral pathogens, such as Respiratory Syncytial virus (for example RSV F and G proteins or immunogenic fragments thereof disclosed in US Patent 5,149,650 or chimeric polypeptides containing immunogenic fragments from HSRV proteins F and G, eg GF

glycoprotein disclosed in US Patent 5,194,595), antigens derived from meningitis strains such as meningitis A, B and C, Streptococcus Pneumonia, human papilloma virus, in particular from strains HPV6, 11, 16 and 18, Influenza virus, Haemophilus Influenza B (Hib), Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), or derived from
5 bacterial pathogens such as Salmonella, Neisseria, Borrelia (for example OspA or OspB or derivatives thereof), or Chlamydia, or Bordetella for example P.69, PT and FHA, or derived from parasites such as plasmodium or toxoplasma.

The P815 tumour is a mastocytoma, induced in a D BA/2 mouse with methylcholanthrene and cultured as both an in vitro tumour and cell line. This
10 represents an excellent model system for the human.

The model system described in this application is a murine system whereby a murine tumour antigen, P1A, expressed in the mouse mastocytoma P815, is being tested for its ability to stimulate CTL in the mouse with and without adjuvant. The significance of this system is that P1A is a true tumour rejection antigen in that its
15 gene is the same in both normal and tumour cells but the gene is silent in normal cells and only expressed in tumour cells. This is in comparison to other P815 antigens that were previously found and which are created by mutation of normal alleles. These are called tum- variants or tum- antigens. Mutations in the tum- antigens create new antigenic peptides which can then be recognised by CTL.

20 Tum- antigens are likely to be tumour-specific whereas true tumour antigens will be shared between different tumours and patients and therefore the latter will be better candidates for vaccine formulations. Human tumour rejection antigens analogous to P1A include the MAGE, BAGE, GAGE etc. families as described earlier. These genes are found in both normal and tumour tissues but the
25 corresponding proteins are expressed only in tumours and in normal testis. As the testis is an immune privileged site it is unlikely to be affected by any vaccine.

P1A is a true murine TRAs. Therefore, one can test a large number of adjuvants with a variety of different assays in mice giving a good indication as to which formulations should be used with human tumour rejection antigens in human
30 clinical trials.

Preferred compositions of the invention are those forming a liposome structure. Compositions where the sterol/immunologically active saponin fraction forms an ISCOM structure also form an aspect of the invention.

The ratio of QS21 : sterol will typically be in the order of 1 : 100 to 1 : 1 weight to weight. Preferably excess sterol is present, the ratio of QS21 : sterol being at least 1 : 2 w/w. Typically for human administration QS21 and sterol will be present in a vaccine in the range of about 1 ng to about 100µg, preferably about 10µg to about 50µg per dose.

The liposomes preferably contain a neutral lipid, for example phosphatidylcholine, which is preferably non-crystalline at room temperature, for example egg yolk phosphatidylcholine, dioleoyl phosphatidylcholine or dilauryl phosphatidylcholine. The liposomes may also contain a charged lipid which increases the stability of the liposome-QS21 structure for liposomes composed of saturated lipids. In these cases the amount of charged lipid is preferably 1-20% w/w, most preferably 5-10%. The ratio of sterol to phospholipid is 1-50% (mol/mol), most preferably 20-25%.

The compositions of the invention also contain a 3 deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A derivative (3-de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, also known as 3D-MPL) and is manufactured by Ribi Immunochem, Montana. A preferred form is disclosed in International Patent Application 92/116556.

Suitable compositions of the invention are those wherein liposomes are initially prepared without 3D-MPL, and 3D-MPL is then added, preferably as 100nm particles. The 3D-MPL is therefore not contained within the vesicle membrane (known as 3D-MPL out). Compositions where the 3D-MPL is contained within the vesicle membrane (known as 3D-MPL in) also form an aspect of the invention. The antigen can be contained within the vesicle membrane or contained outside the vesicle membrane or encapsulated. Preferably soluble antigens are outside and hydrophobic or lipidated antigens are either contained inside or outside the membrane. The 3D-MPL will be present in the range of about 1Ug to 100Ug and preferably about 10 to 50 µg per dose of human vaccine.

Often the vaccines of the invention will not require any specific carrier and formulated in an aqueous or other pharmaceutically acceptable buffer. In some cases it may be advantageous that the vaccines of the present invention will further contain alum.

5 **Example 1:**

a) - Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide + 3 D-MPL + QS21 + Lipids ± IL12

Human tumours express antigens that can be recognized by autologous CTL. These antigens constitute useful targets for cancer immunotherapy. We decided to
10 evaluate in the P815 murine mastocytoma model the efficacy of an immunization method that could be applied to human patients. Syngeneic DBA/2 mice were injected with antigenic peptides mixed with adjuvant and murine IL12.

An adjuvant composition comprising QS21 lipids (DQ) and 3 de-o-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (3D-MPL) was prepared.

15 Briefly a mixture of lipid (such as phosphatidylcholine either from egg-yolk or synthetic) and cholesterol in organic solvent, is dried down under vacuum (or alternatively under a stream of inert gas). An aqueous solution (such as phosphate buffered saline) is then added, and the vessel agitated until all the lipid is in suspension. This suspension is then microfluidised until the liposome size is
20 reduced to 100 nm, and then sterile filtered through a 0.2 Um filter. Extrusion or sonication could replace this step.

The cholesterol phosphatidylcholine ratio is 1:4 (w/w), and the aqueous solution is added to give a final cholesterol concentration of 5 to 50 ng/ml. The liposomes have a defined size of 100 nm and are referred to as SUV (for small
25 unilamellar vesicles). If this solution is repeatedly frozen and thawed the vesicles fuse to form large multilamellar structures (MLV) of size ranging from 500nm to 15 µm.

QS21 in aqueous solution is added to the liposomes. This mixture is then added to 50 µg of P198 peptide (KYQAVTTTL) and 3D-MPL.

30

Fig.1 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide p198 ± DQS21/3D-MPL ± IL12

DBA/2 mice were injected s.c. in the two footpads with 50µg of P198 peptide (KYQAVTTTL), corresponding to the antigen expressed by the P198 TUM - clone (Sibille et al., J. Exp. Med., 1990: 172, 35-45), mixed with the DQS21/3D-MPL adjuvant (adjuvant) 100µl final. For a second group of animals we added to the peptide and adjuvant solution 50ng (500U) murine IL12. This murine IL12 was purified from the supernatant of transfected P1HTR cells as described in Gajewski et al. (J. Immunol. 1995, 154: 5637-5648). On d1 and 2, we injected locally an additional dose of IL12 100ng (1000U) or PBS. On day 16, the mice were bled and stimulation of blood lymphocytes was performed by mixing 3×10^5 Ficoll purified lymphocytes with 10^5 irradiated stimulating cells (100 Gy) and 2×10^6 irradiated normal syngeneic spleen cells (30 Gy) as feeder cells. The stimulating cells were P1983 cells, an azaguanine-resistant variant derived from the P198 TUM-clone. The cells were incubated in 48-well plates in a final volume of 0,8ml MLTC medium described in Warnier et al. (Int. J. Cancer, 1996, 67, 303-310). Seven days later, CTL activity was measured in a standard chromium-release assay using 1,000 5^1Cr -labelled targets. Two targets were used: the P1983 cells or the P511 cells (azaguanine-resistant variant derived from the P815 TUM+ cells) not expressing the P198 antigen. To eliminate non-specific lysis, 10^5 cold P511 cells were added as competitors. On day 26, the mice received a second injection of peptide, adjuvant and IL12 or PBS, followed by two local injections of 100ng (1000U) IL12 or PBS. A second bleeding of the mice was performed on day 41 to estimate CTL activity after two injections. Data are expressed in lytic units (LU)/ 10^6 lymphocytes as described in Brichard et al. (Eur. J. Immunol., 1995, 25: 664-671). Specific lytic units were calculated by subtracting the values obtained with the negative targets (usually less than 0,3 LU) from those obtained with the positive target. Mice were scored as ± when the LU detected were comprised between 0,1 and 1; + when LU were comprised between 1 and 10; and ++ above 10 LU.

Fig. 2 CTL activity in mice injected with peptide P198 \pm DQS21/3D-MPL \pm IL12

5 After the first injection, no CTL activity was detected in the mice injected with the peptide and the adjuvant. When IL12 was added significant CTL activity was detected in all the animals. For the majority of the mice (13/15) the response was moderate since we measured less than 1 LU/10⁶ PBL. After the second immunization, two mice out of 15, injected with the peptide and adjuvant alone
10 were positive. In the group injected with IL12, CTL activity had increased and half of the mice showed a very high response. The addition of IL12 to the peptide and the adjuvant increased strongly the number of responding mice and the level of CTL activity observed after only a few injections.

15 **Fig. 3 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide P198 \pm DQS21/3D-MPL \pm IL12 in footpads or flanks.**

 In this second experiment, we applied the immunisation protocol described before (Fig.1) with some modifications. To determine the relative contribution of
20 IL12 and adjuvant in CTL induction, we injected one group of mice in the footpads with P198 peptide and IL12 without adjuvant. To test a s.c. injection site that is applicable to humans, we also injected 2 groups of mice s.c. in the flank instead of the footpads; the first one receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 and the second receiving only the peptide and the adjuvant. Four injections were performed
25 and mice were bled after the first, the second and the fourth injection for CTL activity determinations.

Fig. 4 CTL activity in mice injected with peptide P198 \pm DQS21/3D-MPL \pm IL12 in the footpads or the flanks.

After the first immunisation, we observed that 4 mice out of 10 injected with peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 in the footpads showed a significant CTL activity. In the group injected without adjuvant 3 mice also showed CTL activity but the response was lower. Nearly no response was obtained after injection into the flanks since only 2 mice receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 showed a weak CTL activity.

After the second immunisation, all the mice receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 combination in the footpads exhibited high CTL activity. All the mice injected with the peptide and the IL12 without adjuvant also showed a specific CTL activity, but much weaker. The same situation is observed for the mice injected in the flank with the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 while in the absence of IL12 no response is observed after injection in the flank.

After the fourth injection, all the mice that received peptide, adjuvant and IL12 in the footpads had a CTL activity located in the high values. We also observed an increase in the average of CTL activity for the mice injected without adjuvant or receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 in the flank. Even after 4 injections we did not observe any response in the mice injected in the flank without IL12.

We confirm in this experiment the potent effect of IL12 on the generation of CTL activity after immunisation with the P198 peptide. This effect is enhanced by the combination with the DQS21/3D-MPL adjuvant since the response is obtained earlier in all the mice and since the average level of response is higher. The effect of IL12 is also required to obtain CTL activity when the antigen is injected in the flank instead of in the footpads.

Fig. 5 IL12 dose curve

Mice were injected with the P198 peptide mixed with the DQS21/3D-MPL adjuvant. Different doses of murine IL12 3ng (30U), 10ng (100U), 30ng (300U),
5 100ng (1000U) were mixed with the peptide and the adjuvant and also repeated locally the two following days. The control group received the peptide and the adjuvant but no IL12. Mice were bled after each of the two immunisations to monitor the appearance and level of CTL activity.

10 **Fig. 6 CTL activity in mice receiving peptide P198 \pm DQS21/3D-MPL \pm various doses of IL12**

In the two preceding experiments we used a high dose of IL12 (1 μ g/mouse/day). Even if the IL12 was injected locally we saw a systemic toxicity
15 with symptoms similar to those observed in a LPS shock. We decided to try decreasing doses of IL12. The effect of IL12 was nearly fully maintained when the dose/mouse/day was decreased to 10ng (100U). It disappeared when the mice were injected with only 30 ng IL12. At that dose, the systemic toxicity of IL12 was largely reduced but not totally absent.

20

Fig. 7 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide P1A \pm DQS21/3D-MPL \pm IL12

After several experiments with the peptide P198 showing that high CTL
25 activity were induced by injections of a combination of peptide, adjuvant and IL12, we decided to apply this protocol to the P1A peptide. This peptide presented by the Ld molecule constitutes the P815A antigen that is a major target for the immune rejection *in vivo* (Uyttenhove et al. J. Exp. Med., 1983, 157: 1040-1052). Gene P1A, which code for the P815A antigen is expressed in several mastocytoma
30 tumour lines (Van den Eynde et al. J. Exp. Med., 1991, 173: 1373-1384). Like the *MAGE*, *BAGE* and *GAGE* genes, it is not expressed in adult normal tissues, with

the exception of spermatogonia in the testis (Van den Eynde et al, 1991 and Uyttenhove et al, Int. J. Cancer, 1997, 70: 349-356). Accordingly, the P815A antigen represents a good mouse model for the human MAGE, BAGE and GAGE antigens.

- 5 Mice were injected s.c. in the two footpads with 50 µg of P1A peptide (LPYLGWLVF described in Lethé et al. Eur. J. Immunol. 1992, 22: 2283-2288) mixed with the adjuvant DQS21/3D-MPL. For one group, 100ng (1000U) of IL-12 was added to the peptide and the adjuvant. These mice received additional doses of 100ng (1000U) IL-12 injected locally the two following days. This injection
- 10 scheme was repeated four times and the mice were bled after the second and the fourth injection. The lymphocytes were restimulated in vitro for 7 days and the CTL activity was measured in a conventional ⁵¹Cr assay. We used L1210. P1A cells as stimulating cells. The syngeneic L1210 P1A transfectant cells expressing the antigen P815AB were generated as described in Uyttenhove et al. Int. J. Cancer
- 15 (1997) 70: 349-356. As target cells we used P511 cells expressing all the P815 antigens and P1-204 cells, an antigen-loss variant not expressing the P815 AB antigen described in Uyttenhove et al (J. Exp. Med., 157, 1040-1052, 1983). To avoid problems of non specific lysis, cold P1-204 were added as competitors.

20 **Fig. 8 CTL activity in mice injected with the P1A peptide ± DQS21/3D-MPL ± IL12**

- After two injections, 9 mice out of ten showed significant CTL activity specific for the P815A antigen when IL12 was added to the peptide and adjuvant.
- 25 Half of those mice exhibited high CTL activity levels. In the group injected without IL12, a positive response was detected only in one mouse and this activity was rather low.

- After the fourth injection, all the mice receiving IL12 were positive and the average of lytic units had increased. Without IL12 we detected a good CTL activity
- 30 in four mice, one additional mouse showed a very low response at the limit of the significance threshold. In this system again, the addition of IL12 increased the

number of responding mice and diminished the number of injections needed to obtain high and specific CTL activity. In this experiment we injected a high dose of IL12 (100ng (1000U)/mouse/day). Like in the previous experiments using the P198 peptide we observed systemic toxic effects of the IL12.

5

Conclusion:

The addition of IL12 to peptide and adjuvant combination is very effective at increasing the number of mice displaying high CTL responses after immunisation.

10 In addition, CTL responses appear earlier in the presence of IL12.

Claims

1. An adjuvant composition comprising a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof, and Interleukin 12.
5
2. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the monophosphoryl lipid A is 3-O-deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A.
3. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the
10 saponin adjuvant is QS21.
4. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 3 additionally comprising cholesterol.
- 15 5. An adjuvant composition as claimed herein for use in medicine.
6. Use of a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or a derivative thereof and Interleukin 12 in the manufacture of adjuvant for the treatment of prophylaxis of pathogenic infections or cancer.
20
7. A method of producing an adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising admixing a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof and Interleukin 12.

25

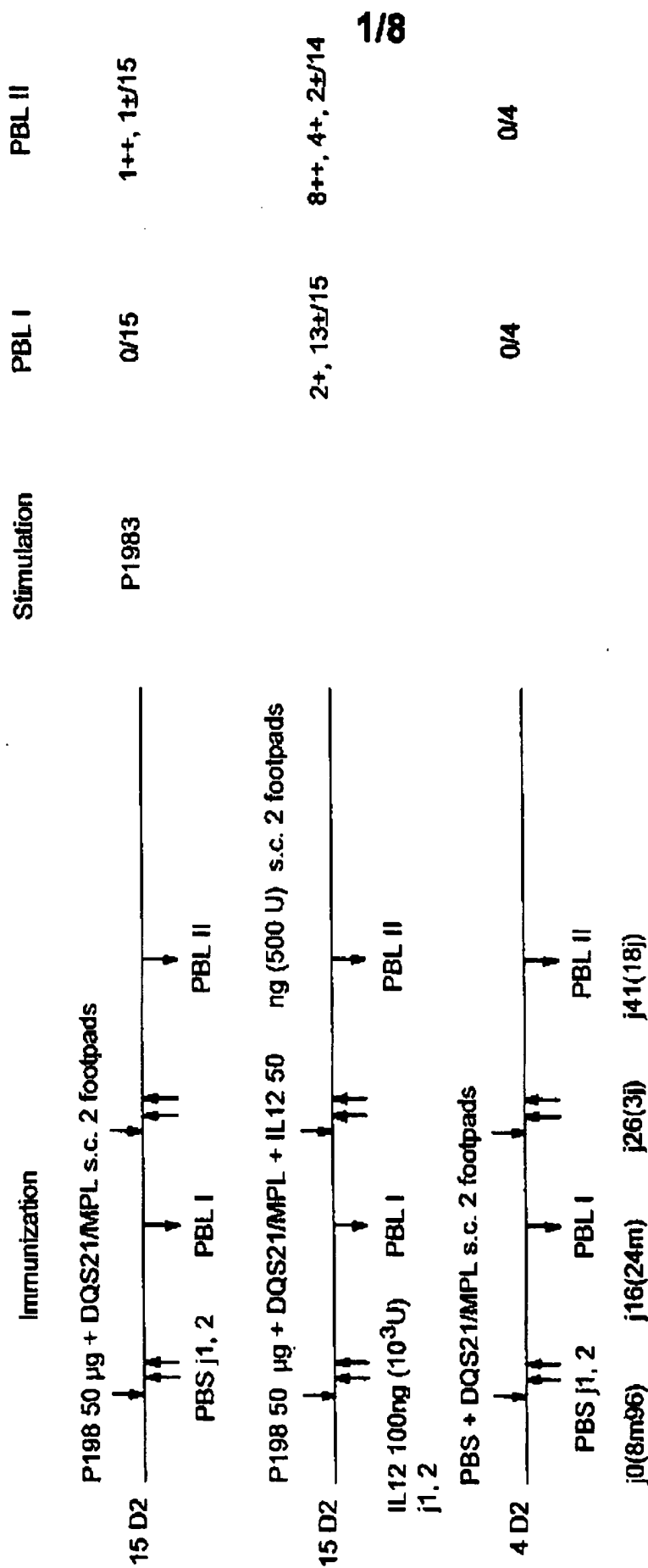


Fig. 1 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL ± IL12
1 OR 2 INJECTIONS s.c.footpads

2/8

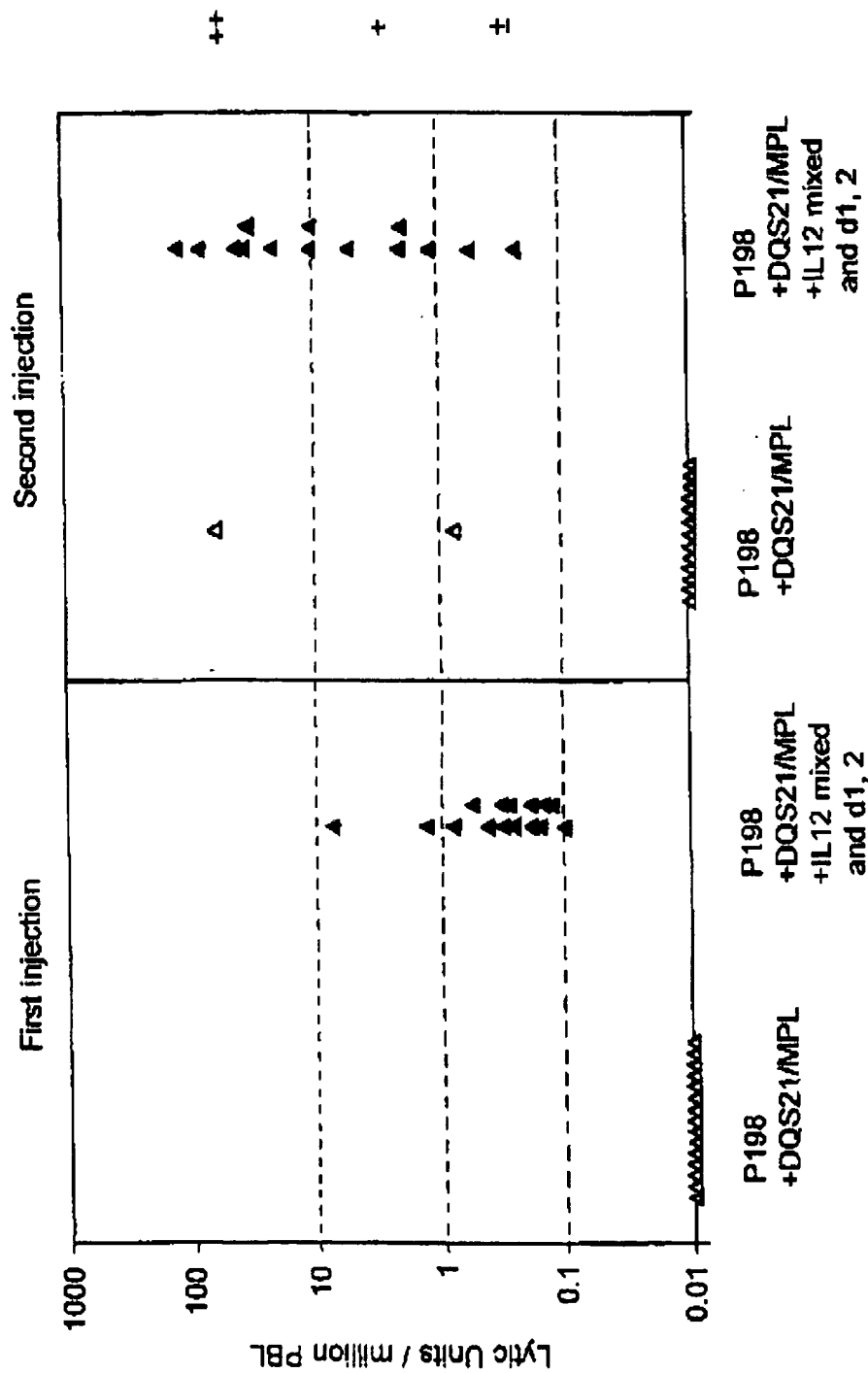
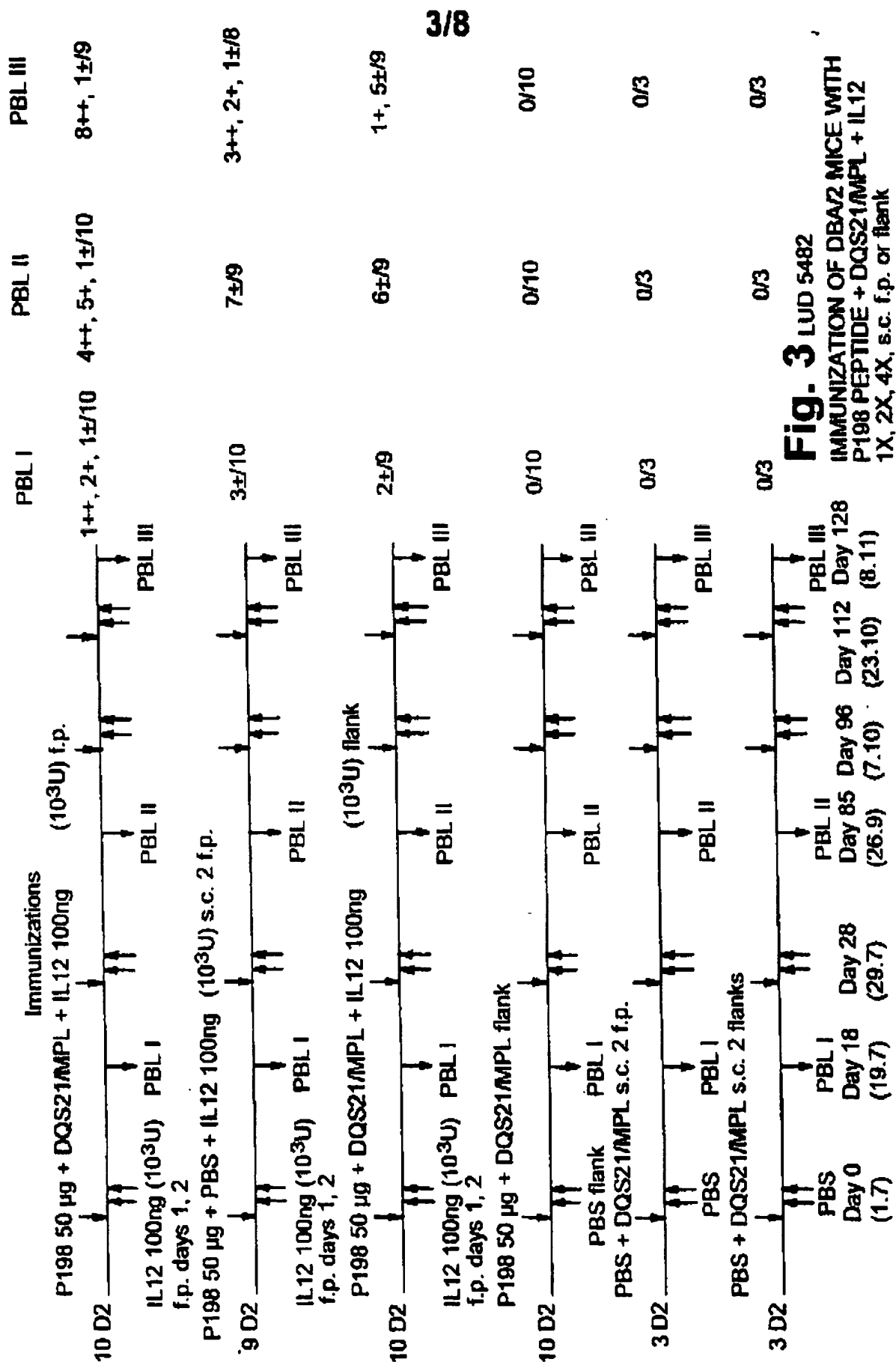


Fig. 2 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL ± IL12
1, 2 INJECTIONS f.p.

LUD 5482

**Fig. 3** LUD 5482

IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH
P198 PEPTIDE + DQS21/MPL + IL12
1X, 2X, 4X, s.c. f.p. or flank

4/8

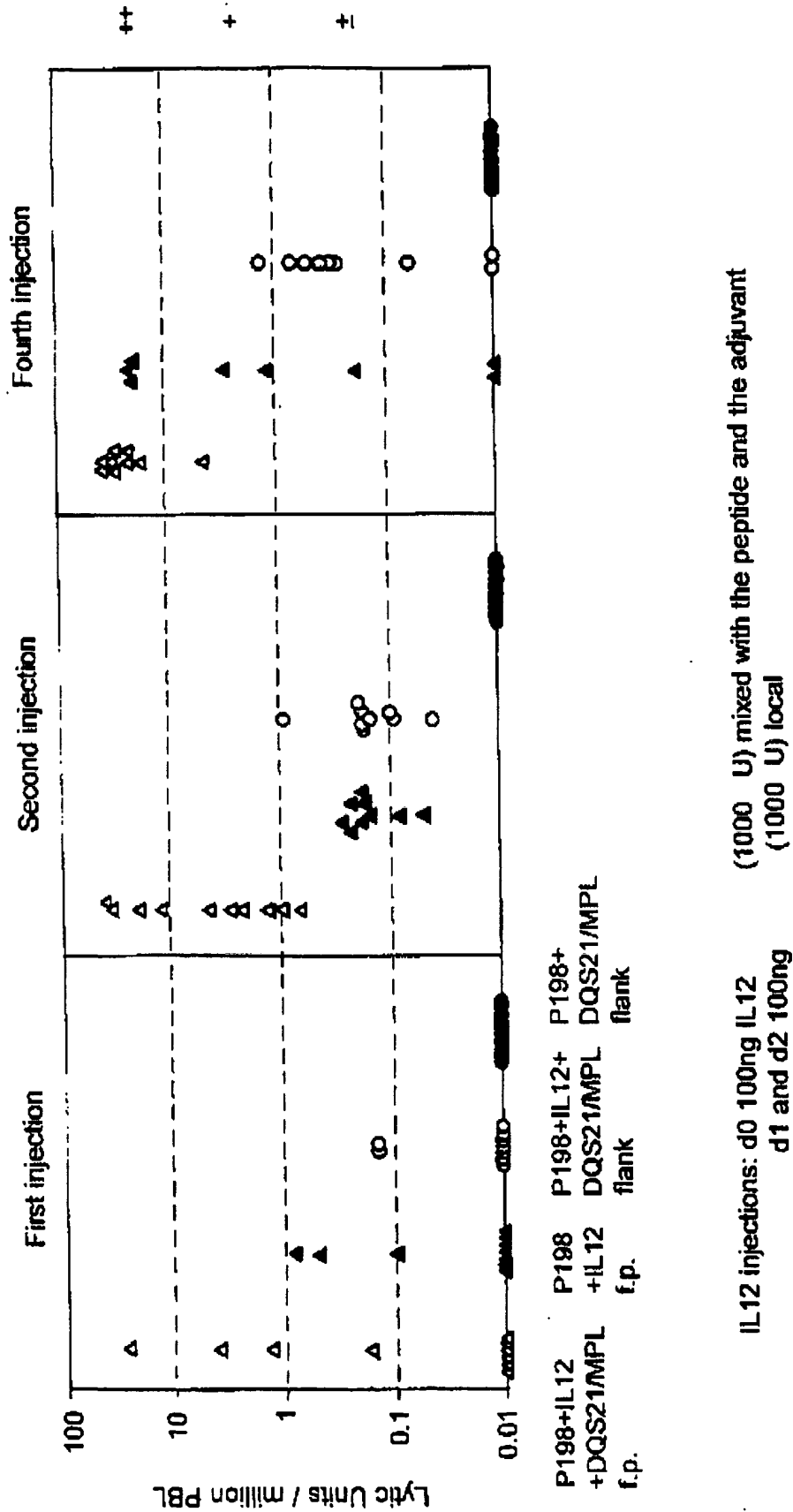
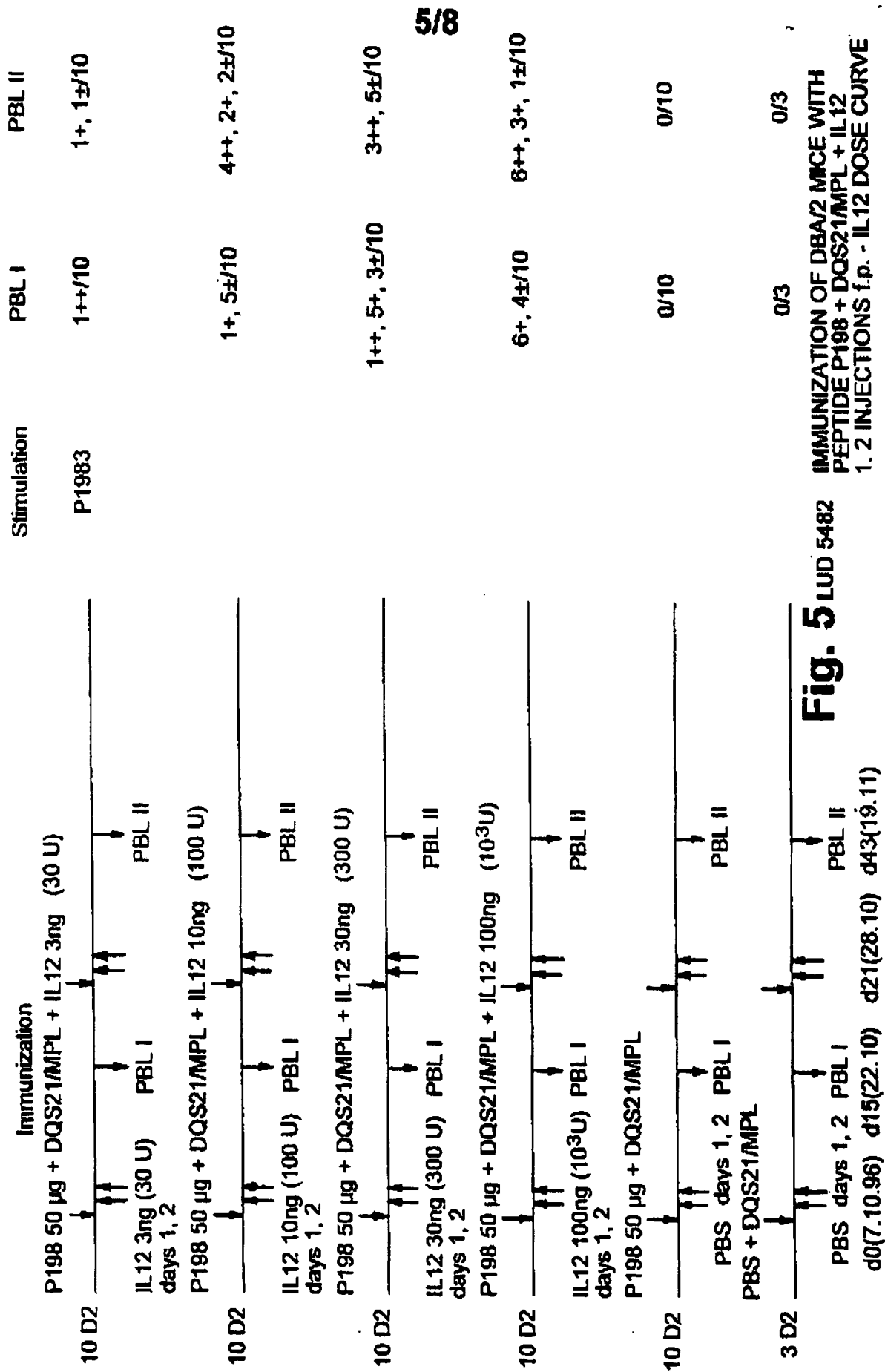


Fig. 4 LUD 5482 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 ± DQS21/MPL ± IL12
1, 2, 4 INJECTIONS f.p. or flank



5/8

Stimulation	PBL I	PBL II
P1983	1++/10	1+, 1±/10
	1+, 5±/10	4++, 2+, 2±/10
	1++, 5+, 3±/10	3++, 5±/10
	6+, 4±/10	6++, 3+, 1±/10
	0/10	0/10
	0/3	0/3

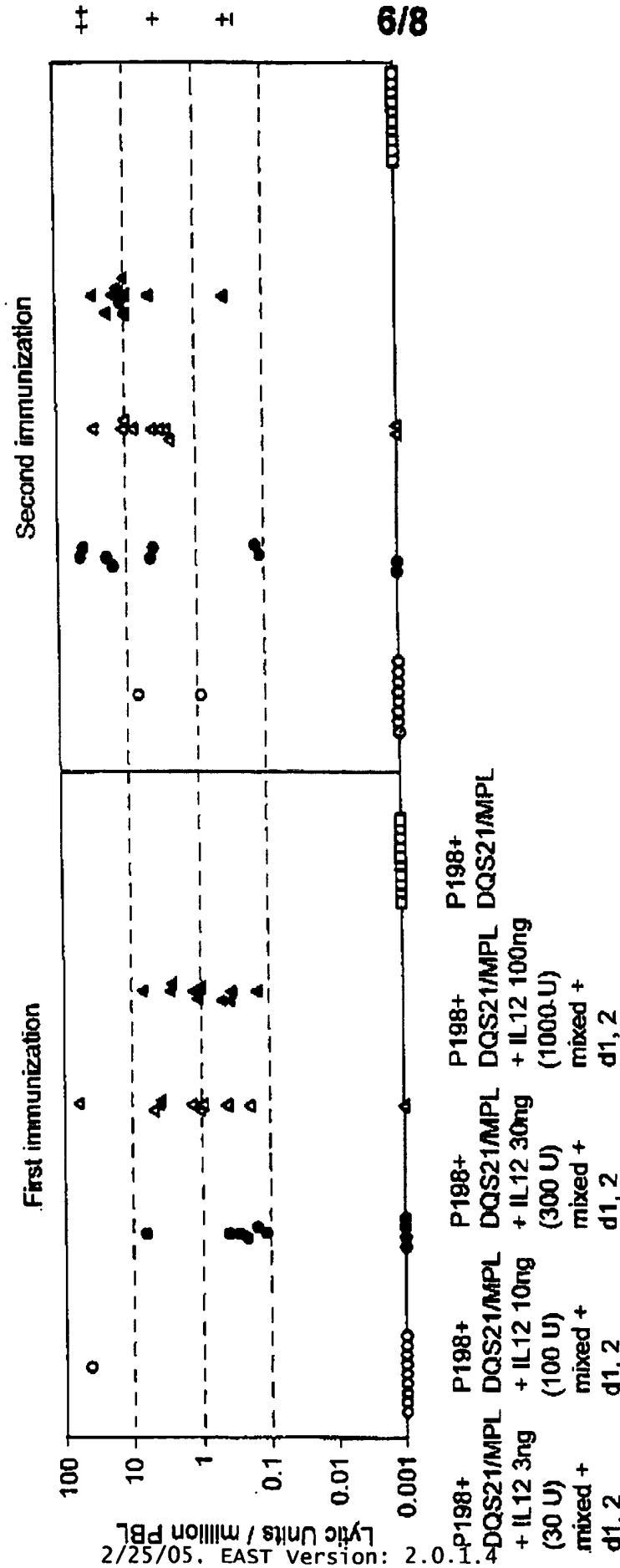


Fig. 6 LUD 5482 IL12 DOSE CURVE
IMMUNIZATION WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL + IL12 f.p.

7/8

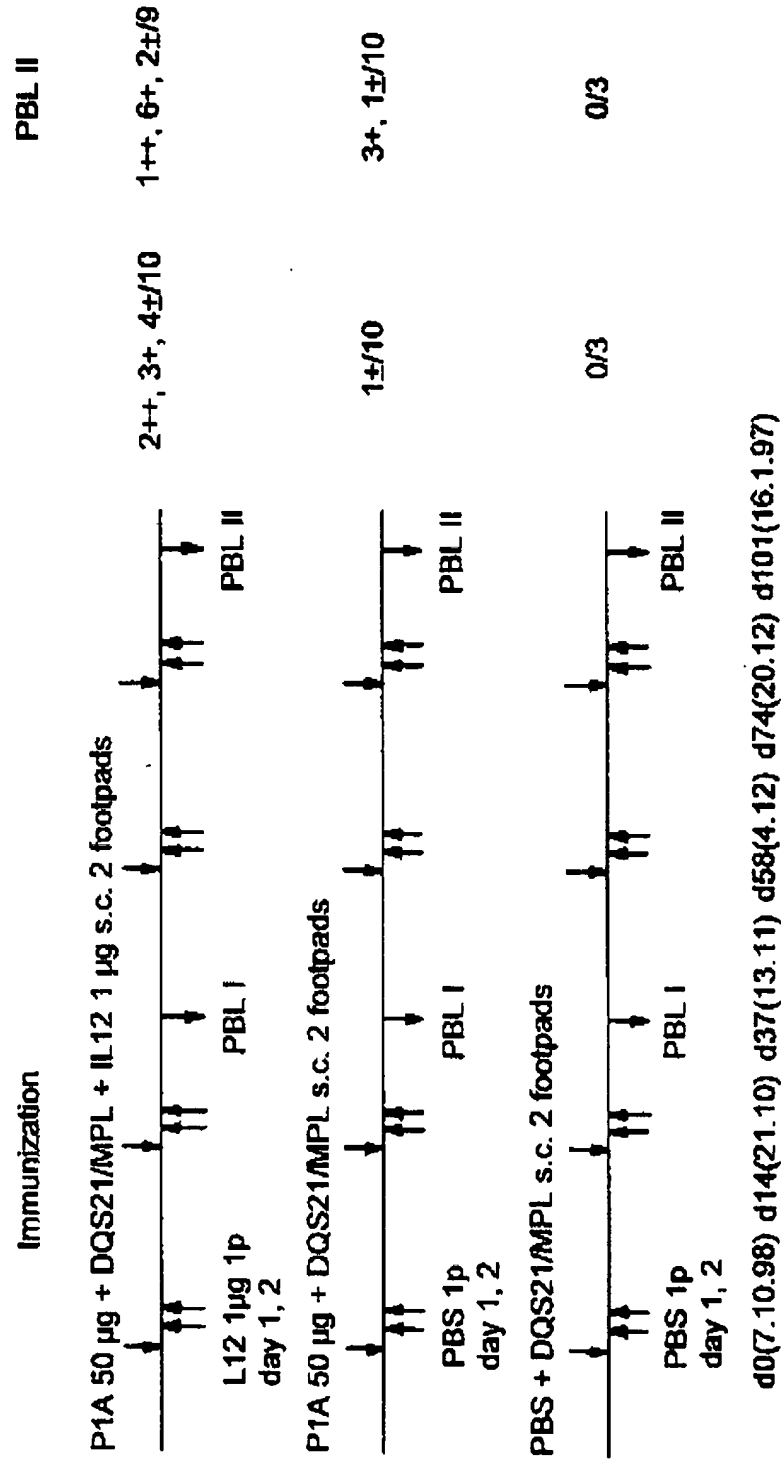


Fig.7 LUD 5482 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P1A + DQS21/MPL ± IL12

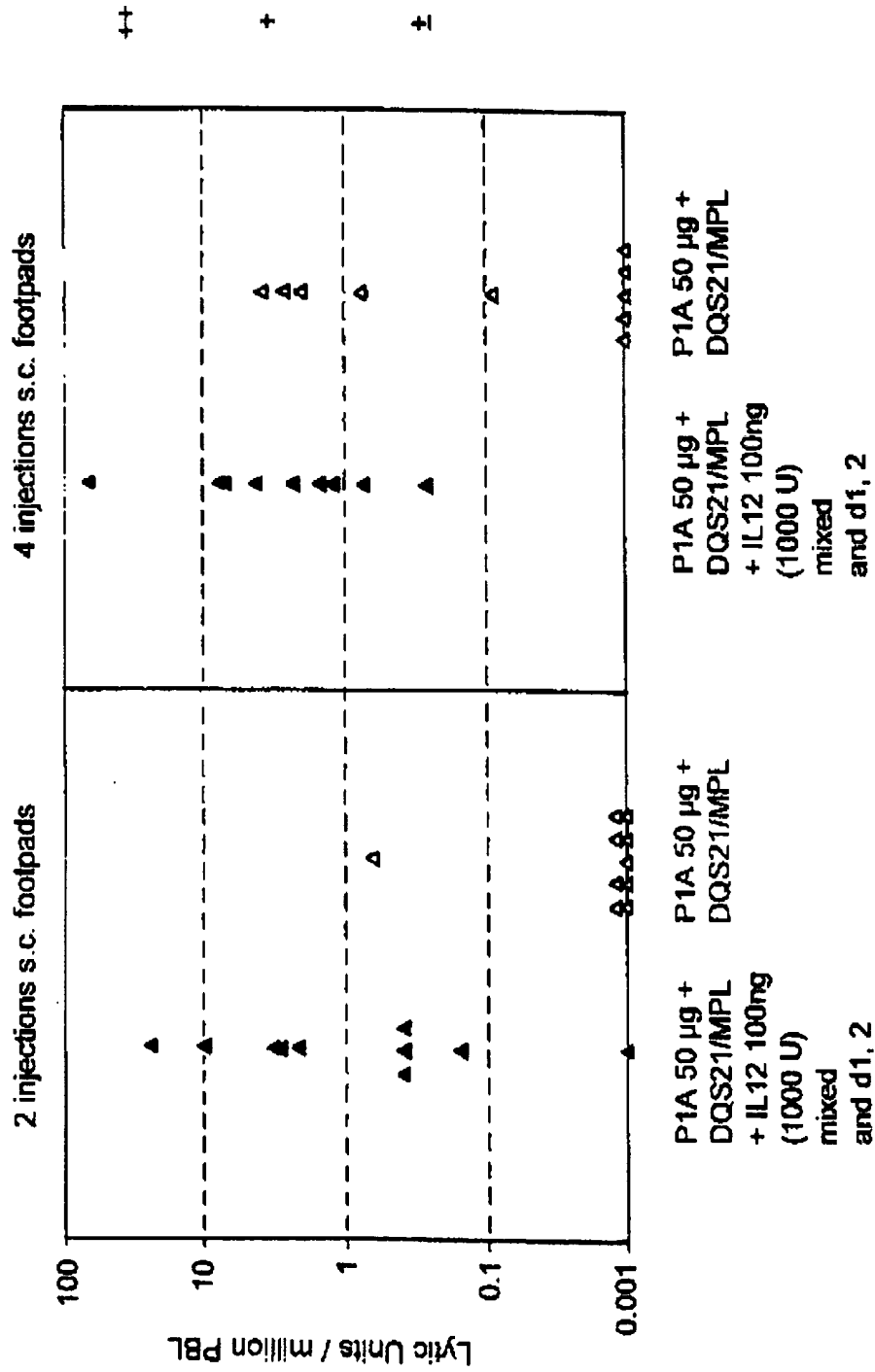


Fig. 8 LUD 5482 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P1A + DQS21/MPL ± IL12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No
PCT/EP 98/03671

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K39/39

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 95 17209 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS) 29 June 1995 see the whole document ---	1-7
Y	WO 94 00153 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS) 6 January 1994 see the whole document ---	1-7
Y	WO 96 11019 A (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY) 18 April 1996 see the whole document ---	1-7
Y	WO 96 10423 A (LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH) 11 April 1996 see the whole document ---	1-7
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 October 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/10/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.O. 5818 Patentean 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 840-2040, Tx. 31 681 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 840-3016

Authorized officer

Moreau, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No

PCT/EP 98/03671

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>WO 97 01640 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS) 16 January 1997 see the whole document -----</p>	1-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int. Appl. No.

PCT/EP 98/03671

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9517209 A	29-06-1995	AU 1316495 A	10-07-1995
		AU 687494 B	26-02-1998
		AU 1316695 A	10-07-1995
		AU 6803198 A	09-07-1998
		AU 6803298 A	09-07-1998
		CA 2179779 A	29-06-1995
		CN 1138298 A	18-12-1996
		WO 9517210 A	29-06-1995
		EP 0735898 A	09-10-1996
		EP 0868918 A	07-10-1998
		JP 9506887 T	08-07-1997
		SG 49257 A	18-05-1998
		ZA 9410176 A	17-11-1995
WO 9400153 A	06-01-1994	AP 408 A	27-09-1995
		AT 156710 T	15-08-1997
		AU 1785597 A	19-06-1997
		AU 661404 B	20-07-1995
		AU 4326393 A	24-01-1994
		AU 576166 B	06-03-1997
		AU 4326493 A	24-01-1994
		CA 2138996 A	06-01-1994
		CA 2138997 A	06-01-1994
		CN 1086142 A	04-05-1994
		CN 1092812 A	28-09-1994
		CZ 9403296 A	16-08-1995
		DE 69313134 D	18-09-1997
		DE 69313134 T	26-02-1998
		DK 671948 T	01-09-1997
		WO 9400575 A	06-01-1994
		EP 0671948 A	20-09-1995
		EP 0649470 A	26-04-1995
		EP 0761231 A	12-03-1997
		ES 2108278 T	16-12-1997
		FI 946064 A	22-02-1995
		GR 3025184 T	27-02-1998
		HU 71208 A	28-11-1995
		IL 106109 A	18-02-1997
		JP 7508512 T	21-09-1995
		JP 7508648 T	28-09-1995

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int Serial Application No

PCT/EP 98/03671

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9400153 A		MX 9303771 A	31-05-1994
		MX 9303773 A	31-05-1994
		NO 945003 A	23-12-1994
		NZ 253137 A	27-08-1996
		NZ 253138 A	26-10-1995
		PL 170980 B	28-02-1997
		SG 49909 A	15-06-1998
		SI 9300335 A	31-12-1993
		SK 159294 A	09-08-1995
		US 5750110 A	12-05-1998
WO 9611019 A	18-04-1996	AU 3887695 A	02-05-1996
		EP 0784486 A	23-07-1997
		JP 10507175 T	14-07-1998
WO 9610423 A	11-04-1996	AU 3735095 A	26-04-1996
		ZA 9508230 A	15-07-1996
WO 9701640 A	16-01-1997	AU 6304996 A	30-01-1997
		CA 2222456 A	16-01-1997
		CZ 9704223 A	17-06-1998
		EP 0835318 A	15-04-1998
		NO 976060 A	17-02-1998
		PL 324906 A	22-06-1998